

Tapestry presents stories from:
Ottawa's Chinese Canadian Community



TAPESTRY



TAPISSERIE

Cover photo: Ottawa Chinatown Royal Arch, 2010
Photo: Phil Renaud, City of Ottawa

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City of Ottawa Archives

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ISBN: 978-1-998031-12-2 (print)
ISBN: 9978-1-998031-13-9 (digital)

Foreward

Dear reader

First launched in 2022, the Tapestry Initiative strives to enable all researchers to see themselves in the collections, products, and services they receive from their Archives. For racialized communities in Ottawa, in particular, this has not always been the case. To address this, we have been reaching out to these communities to ensure that the records of people, businesses, and community groups are preserved either within their communities or at the Archives.

We also strive to discover the records already present in our collections and to catalogue and access them in a way that is respectful of how communities see and present themselves. We acknowledge that government agencies have not always been seen as safe spaces, therefore, we want to make our collections accessible to everyone.

When we asked Robert Yip, from Ottawa's Chinese community, to help us document the experience of his community, the donations that followed became part of our permanent collection. Available to present and future researchers, students, and community members, they tell an interesting and poignant story.

Through exhibitions and showcases, we can tell stories that many Canadians may not know, engage our visitors and prompt conversations. Our Occasional Series shares these stories with those who did not experience the exhibition and continues these meaningful discussions.

We hope you appreciate our work.

– City Archivist, Paul J. Henry

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Content warning: This exhibit features articles, documents and items regarding exclusionary policies and discriminatory actions towards the Chinese community.



Tapestry launch event photos, Ottawa City Hall, November 17, 2022
City of Ottawa Photographer, Chris Bricker

Introduction

On November 17, 2022, the City of Ottawa Archives launched the Tapestry project, a collaborative initiative with the Friends of the City of Ottawa Archives to build relationships with diverse communities in Ottawa through community engagement. Currently the Archives is working with the Chinese community along with several other communities to understand the needs of each community, learn about community members' experiences and perspectives, and raise awareness on the value of community memory and history.

Through the Tapestry initiative, the City has acquired material from Robert Yip, who has been extensively involved in community advocacy and promoting cross-cultural understanding on Chinese Canadian media issues, community-police relations, and community history for over 30 years.

These materials document Robert's involvement and advocacy for the local and broader Chinese Canadian community.

Chinese Immigration to Ottawa

With the completion of the transcontinental railway in 1885, the Chinese population on Canada's west coast began migration ever farther eastward. After 1885, any Chinese labourer entering Canada had to pay the head tax, which was set at \$50 in 1885, raised to \$100 in 1902 and raised again to \$500 in 1903. They hoped to find work through relations who had gone before them, by striking out on their own, or by partnering with other individuals like themselves to open businesses.

In 1923, the Canadian government, in order to bar Chinese immigration, replaced the head tax with the Chinese Immigration Act (commonly referred to as the "Exclusion Act" after the American law of the same name). By then, a handful of men in Ottawa had brought their wives from China. Chinese-owned businesses, whose owners installed their families in apartments above or behind the premises, were now conglomerated in some of the A-frame wood houses that lined a couple blocks of Albert Street, three blocks from Parliament Hill. Interspersed among white-owned businesses—a tire shop, a print shop, a paper company and the first government office building—were a half dozen Chinese-run businesses: a grocer, a confectionary, a café, a couple of laundries, and clubs where gambling was the pastime.

Lives of the Family website, Denise Chong

Images right:

Chinese immigration certificate

C. I. 28 certificate issued to Chow Yip, 1914

Courtesy of Bill Joe



All of the head tax certificates presented relate to the Joe family

"In 1913, the teenaged Shung Joe had a brother and a half-brother living overseas in Canada, one in Vancouver and the other in Ottawa. The half-brother in Ottawa had a thriving laundry business and convinced the young boy to come from China to Canada to work for him.

Unlike his half-brother, who went on to open an equally successful café, but then in short order, gambled or squandered everything away, Shung saved diligently. Over a decade, he made a visit back to China to marry, and then, in 1923, once he'd saved enough, he sent for his wife, Kai Voon. Her boat docked in Vancouver in 1923 just as the Chinese Exclusion Act took effect, and it looked as though she would have to return to China. Happily, with the help of a church official in Victoria who acted as an intermediary, Shung Joe was able to plead her case, and she was allowed to pay the head tax and enter Canada.

Shung opened his own laundry business at their home at 110 O'Connor Street. He soon expanded the business and opened a sub-plant nearby at 152 Slater Street. Later, he would also offer the new service of drycleaning. In the 1930s, his brother, Joe Fong (a Canadian immigration official had reversed his surname and given names) moved from Vancouver to Ottawa to work for him. Shung and his wife would raise six children in Ottawa: Allen, Irene, Edwin, William (Bill), Daisy, and Betty. Sadly, a seventh, Lawrence, was playing one day near the locks by the Chateau Laurier Hotel and fell in the river and drowned. None of the Joe children stayed in the family's business."

Lives of the Family website, Denise Chong



Chinese immigration certificates:

C. I. 5 certificate issued to Chow Shung, 1913

Courtesy of Bill Joe

C. I. 5 certificate issued to Chow Kwai Fong, 1922

Courtesy of Don Kwan



Chinese immigration certificates:

C. I. 5 certificate issued to Chow Yip, 1908

Courtesy of Bill Joe

C. I. 36 certificate issued to Ng Tuk Joe, 1924 (image right)

Courtesy of Bill Joe

19822

DOMINION OF CANADA

IMMIGRATION BRANCH - DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

THIS CERTIFIES THAT

OTTAWA, February 6th 1924

Ng Suk Joe (see trace) — of 280 Bank St., Ottawa, Ont.
 whose photograph is hereto attached claims to be
 Ng Suk Joe who arrived at
 Victoria on the 2nd day of May 1900
 who was registered at Ottawa under No. 22677 at Victoria
 under No. 18773 and to whom No. 22600 was issued.

This certificate is given in exchange for value men-
 tioned and while it is not an admission, that the party to
 whom it is issued, was ever legally admitted into Canada,
 it may, unless cancelled upon presentation, be used when
 registering out under C.I. 9.



Proy
 Chief Controller



IMPORTANT
 IT IS NECESSARY THAT THIS
 CERTIFICATE BE CAREFULLY
 PRESERVED AS IT IS OF VALUE
 AS A MEANS OF IDENTIFICATION

注意！

此照務須小心保存以爲
 人照相符之證據此佈

REGISTRATION No. 32241

This is to certify that the person, whose photograph
 appears on the face of this certificate, has reg- ized
 as required by Section 18, of the Chinese Immi-
 gration Act, 1921.

Dated at OTTAWA, Ontario

this 6th day of February 1924

Proy
 Chief Controller

C. Members Would Exclude The Asiatic

13

3

ORIENTAL RUSH FOR DOMINION CAUSES WORRY

Canada Negotiating To Modify Gentlemen's Agreement Allowing 400 Japs a Year.

PREMIER SAYS BARRIERS INTERFERE IN TRADE

Another Day Spent On Immigration Estimates and Few Votes Get Through.

Immigration, Oriental and Occidental, was again the chief topic of discussion by members of the Commons, and with that discussion it became increasingly evident that expenditures under this heading are to be subjected to close scrutiny by the members of both sections of the opposition.

Beginning with a debate in Chinese and Japanese immigration, in which the acting Minister of Immigration, Hon. Charles Stewart, stated that Chinese residents of Canada were endeavoring to bring many Chinese children into the Dominion before the proposed Chinese Immigration Act became effective, and the Minister stated that modification of the immigration treaty between Japan and Canada were being

Various clippings from local newspapers.

"SALADA" TEA

is sweetly clean, wholesome, delicious BUY A TRIAL PACKAGE TO-DAY

POTATOES 90-lb. Bag \$1.25
Kempfle's Green Mountain

Phone: --R. 380--381

BAMBRICK'S
GROCERY --- 50 GEORGE S

New Laid Eggs Per doz. 53c

CANNED VEGETABLES
Tomatoes and Beans, 7 lbs. \$1.00
Corn, 5 lbs. \$1.00

FIVE HONEY FLOID
7 lb. bag 35c
12 lb. bag 50c
24 lb. bag \$1.17
New! Oranges, reg. 10c doz. 2 doz. \$1.00
River Oranges, per doz. 40c
Castle Soap, reg. 25c 7 for \$2.00
McLaren's Jelly Powder, 2 packages 25c
Flour, 40c
Shelled Walnuts, per lb. 50c
Complete stock of fresh frozen meat and smoked fish for Lenten season
Spring onions, California Celery, Sweet Potatoes, Parsnips, Fresh Rhubarb, Cauliflowers, Strawberries, Lemons, etc.
Cranberries, 2 lbs. 25c

PURE HONEY
Clover, 4-lb. tin \$1.00
10-lb. tin \$1.75
Dark wheat, 4-lb. tin 40c

Carrots, 2 lbs. 25c
Per 10-lb. box \$1.85
Campbell's Soup, 10 cans \$1.00
Canned Pumpkins, solid pack, per tin 40c
Canned Corn, 10 cans \$1.00
Canned Beans, 2 lbs. 25c
Canned Peas, 2 lbs. 25c
Canned Tomatoes, 2 lbs. 25c
Canned Apples, 2 lbs. 25c
Canned Pineapples, 2 lbs. 25c
Canned Mushrooms, 2 lbs. 25c
Canned Onions, 2 lbs. 25c
Canned Celery, 2 lbs. 25c
Canned Carrots, 2 lbs. 25c
Canned Potatoes, 2 lbs. 25c
Canned Parsnips, 2 lbs. 25c
Canned Rhubarb, 2 lbs. 25c
Canned Cauliflowers, 2 lbs. 25c
Canned Strawberries, 2 lbs. 25c
Canned Lemons, 2 lbs. 25c
Canned Cranberries, 2 lbs. 25c

Black Tea Special value, Per 4 lbs. 2.00
Pure Cocoa, 2 lbs. 1.00
Canned Peas, 2 lbs. 25c
Per tin 40c
Per 4 lbs. 2.00
Bright Raisins 2 lbs. 50c
Ferguson's Raisins, whole or half, 1 lb. 40c
Per 4 lbs. 2.00
Pavlov's Raisins 2 lbs. 50c
Isberg Lettuce, 2 lbs. 25c

CHINESE IMMIGRATION.

Amendments to the law in regard to Chinese immigration were introduced in the house of commons yesterday afternoon by Hon. Charles Stewart, acting minister of immigration and colonization.

Mr. Stewart stated that there were a number of new features in the bill, including definitions of students and merchants. Under the bill, the only children to be admitted without payment of head tax are those who have gone out of Canada for the purpose of education. Students to be entitled to free admission must be in attendance at a Canadian institution authorized to grant degrees. The minister said that the definition of a merchant had caused much difficulty and with other features of the bill would be further explained when the second reading of the bill was moved.

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1) **Say Orientals Won't Assimilate: B.C. Members Would Exclude the Asiatics.**

WOULD BAN ALL ORIENTALS FROM DOMINION

B.C. Fears of "Yellow Peril" Do Not Impress Members of the Ministry.

—
Immigrants Finger Prints To Be Taken At Entry Port

—
Cabinet On Anxious Seat As Patronage Turn On Programme Draws Nigh.

By Our Parliamentary Correspondent.

The "Yellow Peril," favorite bogey of the statesmen since the Russian bear turned Bolshevist, worried Parliament yesterday. It was brought up by Mr. Neill, of British Columbia, who introduced a bill designed to minimize the menace. Mr. Neill is an Independent who sits with the Progressives but mostly votes with the Government. His two pet aversions are (1) Mr. Meighen (he told the House last year that his single mandate was to vote against the Opposition Leader), and (2) Orientals. He thinks, and explained to the House at great length, that the yellow man, especially the Jap, is a danger, and in sombre language he told how the white man was being driven out of British Columbia. The remedy he proposed was exclusion—sudden, complete, and permanent.

The House, however, refused to be dismayed. It yawned, retired to the smoking room, or looked dubious; leaving the British Columbians to thunder against the peril alone. The Progressives from the prairies, the members from rural and urban Ontario, the Quebecers, and the Maritimers are too far removed from the danger. Their conception of Orientals, and especially Chinese, is that of the little brown men who launder their collars and produce excellent T-bone steaks.

Nor did Mr. Stewart, the Minister of Immigration, display signs of fear. He did not appear to think that Mr. Neill's vivid word pictures correctly mirrored the B.C. position; and he promised a bill of his own adequate to the case. It would be a bill, he explained, which, among other things, would provide for registration and the taking of immigrants' fingerprints.

The British Columbians, however, were not appeased. Mr. Stevens and Mr. McQuarrie rallied around Mr. Neill, and Mr. McQuarrie became so vehement that Mr. Irvine, of Calgary, discerned "threats of Bolshevism from the Tory ranks."

When 6 o'clock came, ending the Wednesday session, the debate was still going on.

Perhaps the Ministry was glad. For Mr. Neill's bill was dangerously near the order resuming the debate on Major Power's drive for patronage, and, after what happened last week, the Cabinet is not anxious to return quickly to that topic. However, Mr. Hal McGiverin was on hand, ready for all emergencies.

On the orders of the day (when members were allowed to ask questions and cross-examine the Government) Mr. Meighen brought up the Pan-American Union. He wanted to know whether we had been invited to join the Union, and, if so, whether we were going to accept the invitation. Mr. King replied that we had not been invited by anybody in authority. Pressed whether we had been invited by anybody without authority, or to say whether there had been "representations, or correspondence" regarding the subject, he explained that he had been approached by a gentleman in an unofficial way, but was not quite clear whether this gentleman's representations constituted matter for further consideration at this time.

The Ottawa Journal | February 22, 1923

2) **Finger Prints of Chinese Entering Canada in Future**

Will be Taken as Means of Identification.

Hon. Chas (Charles) Stewart Announces Provision of New Bill.

—
B.C. Members Stress Oriental Dangers

—
Ind. Member Moved That Minister Should be Final Judge

(Article not legible)

The Citizen | February 22, 1923

3) **Oriental Rush for Dominion Causes Worry**

Canada Negotiating To Modify Gentlemen's Agreement Allowing 400 Japs a Year.

—
Premier Says Barriers Interfere In Trade

—
Another Day Spent On Immigration Estimates and Few Votes Get Through.

Immigration, Oriental and Occidental, was again the chief topic of discussion by members of the Commons, and with that discussion it became increasingly evident that expenditures under this heading are to be subjected to close scrutiny by the members of both sections of the opposition.

Beginning with a debate in Chinese and Japanese immigration, in which the acting Minister of Immigration, Hon. Charles Stewart, stated that Chinese residents of Canada were endeavoring to bring many Chinese children into the Dominion before the proposed Chinese Immigration Act became effective, and the Prime Minister stated that modifications of the immigration treaty between Japan

and Canada were being negotiated, the discussion covered a wide range.

The Ottawa Journal | March 24, 1923

4) **Chinese Immigration**

Amendments to the law in regard to Chinese immigration were introduced in the house of commons yesterday afternoon by Hon. Charles Stewart, acting minister of immigration and colonization.

Mr. Stewart stated that there were a number of new features in the bill, including definitions of students and merchants. Under the bill, the only children to be admitted without payment of head tax are those who have gone out of Canada for the purpose of education. Students to be entitled to free admission must be in attendance at a Canadian institution authorized to grant degrees. The minister said that the definition of a merchant had caused much difficulty and with other features of the bill would be further explained when the second reading of the bill was moved.

Ottawa Citizen | March 3, 1923

5) **Registration of Chinese in Canada**

Last Day to Comply With Regulation. No Last Minute Rush Noticed in Ottawa.

Today is the last day on which Chinese residents can comply with Section 18 of the Chinese Immigration Act, 1923, which became law on June 30th, 1923, and which requires all Chinese in the Dominion to register within twelve months of that date.

The wording of the section is as follows:

“Within twelve months after the coming into the force of this act and subject to such regulations as may be made by the Governor

General in council for the purpose, every person of Chinese origin or descent in Canada, irrespective of allegiance or citizenship, shall register with such officer or officers and at such place or places as are designated by the Governor General in council, for that purpose, and obtain a certificate in the form prescribed: provided that those persons who may, during the time fixed for registration, be absent from Canada with authority to return, may register upon their return."

Registration has been going along steadily since the passing of the act, and there is no last minute rush noticeable in Ottawa. The chief controller of Chinese immigration, Mr. Percy Reid, has been transferred to Vancouver during the last twelve months, but registration in Ottawa is still carried on in the controller's office on the eighth floor of the Jackson building.

The penalty of failing to register as required by the act is subject to a fine not exceeding \$500 or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding twelve months, or to both. The law embraces all those of Chinese origin, and, where this is denied, the onus of proof rests upon the alleged delinquent.

Ottawa Citizen | June 30, 1924

Journal Family Portraits of the Week



On the eve of the Chinese New Year, Mr. and Mrs. William Joe are seen with their children in the living room of their Kildonan Avenue home. Following the Chinese custom, Mr. Joe presents his children with red envelopes containing silver for good luck in the Year of the Horse. Seated from the left are Brenda, 8, Barbara, 7, and Laurie, 5, all pupils at D. Roy

Kennedy Public School, and Christine, 3. Michael, one year, is seated on his mother's knee. Mr. Joe is the son of Mrs. Shung Joe of Ottawa and the late Mr. Joe. His wife, a native of Hong Kong, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. Y. Cheng of that city. Mrs. Joe came to Ottawa in 1951.

(Journal Photo by Dominick Wade)

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The Ottawa Journal | January 26, 1966



Map of Ottawa's Chinatown 1986

A budding Chinatown, 1980s

Photos courtesy of *Ottawa*

Chinatown 1931-2014 by David Lai



Ottawa's Chinatowns

Ottawa had two different areas that served as Chinatown. Ottawa's original Chinatown grew along Albert Street between Kent and O'Connor streets, starting with three laundries, one restaurant and one grocery store in 1914 and three grocery stores, two laundries, two recreation clubs and one gift shop in 1931. During the 1960s and 1970s, as businesses along Albert Street closed and more Chinese families lived and set up businesses along Somerset Street West, this area replaced Albert Street as Chinatown.

"Ottawa's Chinatown is a compact and multicultural community centred around Somerset Street West, between Centretown and Little Italy (just west of Bronson Avenue).

In the early 20th century, the area that is now Chinatown was home to mostly working class Irish and Italian immigrants, while the local Chinese population was scattered throughout downtown. When Ottawa welcomed thousands of Vietnamese refugees in 1979, many settled in the area. Through the 1990s and 2000s, the neighbourhood developed an official identity and was eventually designated as the Chinatown Business Improvement Area. A beautiful Chinatown Gateway, or Royal Arch, was unveiled in 2010 as a joint project with Beijing, Ottawa's sister city."

Ottawa Tourism

Image left:

Marion Hum, Bill Joe and Frank Ling at the unveiling of the lions at the base of the Ottawa Chinatown Royal Arch, October 7, 2010

City of Ottawa Archives | RG027/10H-217 173

A HISTORICAL GUIDE TO ONTARIO'S 唐人街 CHINATOWNS

Over 150 years ago, the Chinese came to Canada in search of a new life. Gold drew thousands to Barkerville, B.C. - the first wave of Chinese immigration to Canada.

Thousands more came to build the Canadian Pacific Railway. When it was completed, many headed East through the Rocky Mountains.

While the majority settled in larger cities, some Chinese made their homes in smaller communities in Ontario, particularly along Highway 401.

The Chinese neighbourhoods of Toronto are still called Tong Yen Gai. Ottawa's Tong Yen Gai is located in the hub of the city's international district.



Experience Tong Yen Gai - the sights, sounds, people and tastes of Chinatown



CHINESE CANADIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL
& CHINESE CANADIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL (TORONTO CHAPTER)

A Historical Guide to Ontario's Chinatowns, published by the Chinese Canadian National Council (CCNC) & CCNC Toronto Chapter
City of Ottawa Archives | MG911-4-2

Ottawa - the nation's capital

In 1891, there were 5 Chinese living in Ottawa; in 1951, there were 404 and most were men; by 1971, there were 2,340 – still mostly men. Today, there are more than 20,000 residents of Chinese background in the capital region.

Many pioneer Chinese ran laundries because small businesses required little start-up costs. Ottawa's original Chinatown was along Albert Street. In 1914, there were 3 laundries, 1 restaurant and the Wing On grocery store. At one time, there were 15 Chinese restaurants, grocery stores and social clubs bounded by Albert, Kent and O'Connor Streets. The Nationalist League (Kuomingtang), established in 1916, was located at 196 O'Connor Street.

In the 1930s, the Boston Café was on Rideau Street, the Capital Lunch on Dalhousie Street and the De Luxe Restaurant on Queen Street.

In the 1940s, restaurants serving Canadian-style food were established along Albert Street: the Canton Inn (#205), Ding Hong (#219) and the Ho Ho (#248). There was also the Leopold Boyle (Montreal Road), the Cavendish Café (Sparks Street) and the Arcadia Grill (Bank Street).

Office buildings appeared on Albert Street in the 1960s. Chinese businesses moved to Ottawa's International District, Somerset West. Ottawa's Tong Yen Gai is characterized by storefronts nestled in charming wood-framed houses.



1. The last of the original restaurants, Cathay House (1947) is still at 228 Albert Street. One of the first to serve Chinese cuisine, it was the local gathering place for the community.
2. In 1971, Allen and Nancy Kwan opened the Shanghai Restaurant at 651 Somerset Street West. A favourite eating spot of former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and his family. The Kwan children now run the business. Renovated and funky, the Shanghai still has old favourites on the menu.
3. Familiar places to eat are still the Yangtze (est. 1982) at 700 Somerset Street West, and the Lucky Key Restaurant with its distinctive pagoda at 1272 Carling Avenue (not shown on map).
4. Beechwood Cemetery, 280 Beechwood Avenue in Vanier, north of Ottawa, is where Chinese have been buried since 1909. The Ottawa Chinese Cemetery was established by the Chinese Benevolent Society in 1926. In 1996, a pagoda was unveiled in honour of Chinese pioneers (not shown on map).
5. Leaders from the Joe, Sim and Hum families, together with the Chinese Benevolent Society, joined in Kew Dock Yip's efforts to repeal the 1923 Exclusion Act. In the mid-1950s, the Chinese Community Association was formed to serve the community and in 1982, it opened the Chinese Community Building at 80 Florence Street to house Chinese seniors.
6. The Chinese Christian Mission at 314 Lisgar Street held the first Chinese language classes. In 1962, it became the Ottawa Chinese United Church and in 1984 relocated to 600 Bank Street.



THE CHINESE CANADIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL (EST. 1981) & CCNC TORONTO CHAPTER IS A NON-PROFIT, COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION THAT SEEKS TO PROMOTE THE RIGHTS OF ALL INDIVIDUALS, IN PARTICULAR, THOSE OF CHINESE CANADIANS, AND TO ENCOURAGE THEIR FULL AND EQUAL PARTICIPATION IN CANADIAN SOCIETY.

SUITE 507, 302 SPADINA AVENUE, TORONTO M5T 2E7 416-977-9871 (NATIONAL) OR 416-596-0833 (TORONTO CHAPTER)

PRODUCED BY: MULTICULTURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF

THIS PROJECT FUNDED BY THE ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOU

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DESIGNED BY: CENEDA CREATIVE / SUYIN LOOUI



UP-DATE:

Mayor Dewar on the CJOH "news report"

On September 23, the Ottawa chapter of the Chinese Canadian National Council (CCNC) made a presentation to the City of Ottawa's Advisory Committee on Visible Minority Discrimination City Hall. The Committee and Mayor Manon Dewar also viewed a videotape of the controversial August 26 "news report" by Charlie Greenwell on CJOH. Afterwards, Robert Yip of Orientation, CCNC's English-language radio program, talked to Mayor Dewar. The following is an excerpt from that interview.

Yip: Mayor Dewar, what was your reaction to this program?
 Mayor: I guess my reaction was first and foremost that I was very disappointed. Secondly, I was very upset. I think what has been done by the program has given a wide perception that is not true of one of our strongest communities here that has given so much to sharing with others, to being able to reach out and to open up their culture to the rest of the community. I have worked very hard to attempt to make sure that our police demonstrate this immediately and that we have

that "it does not matter whether you are a member of the visible minorities or whether you are female it is equally important that you are able to identify with that." I guess I also take exception to the fact that there seems to be a tone in this community—well, the Chinese spoke out therefore they got an apology. I listened to the apology and I just feel that the apology was mixed with "there was a continuing problem of gambling." Well, I can tell you right now that I know of many floating gambling games that are going on where there are no Chinese participants.

Yip: Do you wouldn't think that the Chinese community is any more compulsive as gamblers than any other community.
 Mayor: Absolutely outrageous statement and that is the same thing as saying that "you are a woman you can't deal with anything logically because obviously you are too emotional." And it is generalizations like that really do go to permeate prejudice within our community and basically fosters hate. Because all you have to do is hear it, believe it, act on it.

Chinese Canadian Community News [November 1985]

"The year of the dragon" — jeers are not enough!

by Robert Yip

For all of our readers who were fortunate to watch Michael Chan's "Year of the Dragon," I was absolutely astounded by a Polish American, New York City police captain, who waxes a diatribe war against organized crime in the city of Chicago. It was billed as great entertainment, but emerged as such, much more.

would avoid the use of distortion and stereotyping in the depiction of ethnic minority groups. Although the film is no longer playing in Ottawa, its ugly images remain and there is no doubt that these images will be resurrected in one form or another. (For example, the Return of Rambo, or the Next

December 1992

第 20 版

加拿大華報 The Capital Chinese News

The Ottawa Police — To Serve and Protect

By: Robert Yip

Los Angeles, Toronto, Montreal — Much has been said about the troubled state of police relations in these cities, where police officers and minority members of the black community have been interactive and sometimes deadly. As each side sees the other as an enemy, there is much misperception and misunderstanding that has reduced trust and understanding. Much shouting but little communication. Much assignment of blame but little acknowledgement of responsibility.

There is however, a police force which has opened a dialogue and has developed a partnership with the ethnic community. Unlike other less enlightened police forces, the Ottawa Police have never as a result changed. They have simply continued.

ethnic papers, added minority representation to their personnel, reformed and set up a schoolyard fund and summer student program for visible minorities in 1986, when their proactive recruitment policy began to reach 1% of their officers were from the visible minority and the majority community. They have increased to over 6%. The Ottawa Police have reached out to the ethnocultural communities by holding public meetings and forums, holding up public relations photos and creating positive and ethnic relations. In October 1990, after the Chinese Canadian Council's concerns that the disintegration of a police investigative group as the "Asian Crime Unit" was

PUBLIC STATEMENT

CHINESE CANADIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL, OTTAWA CHAPTER

On Monday, September 23, 1985, C.J.O.H. issued a public apology for statements about the Chinese Canadian community during its news program on August 26, 1985, these statements being:

1. "Chinese are by nature compulsive gamblers".
2. "They are also part of a very predatory society and that is posing a poison for the pills".

The Chinese Canadian National Council, Ottawa Chapter is pleased that C.J.O.H. responded so quickly and find the apology appropriate and satisfactory.

However, the Chinese Canadian National Council, Ottawa Chapter regrets that no reassurance was given by C.J.O.H. that similar incidents do not occur at other television stations.

1985 Chinese Canadian Community News

Mayor disappointed by CJOH newscast on Chinese gambling investigation

Ottawa, September 30, 1985 — In an interview by Robert Yip broadcasted by the Orientation Radio Program yesterday, the Mayor of Ottawa, Manon Dewar, expressed outrage and disappointment on the recent remarks made by CJOH Television Station in its August 26, 1985 news program. "I was very disappointed," said Manon Dewar. "I think what has been done by the program has given a wide perception that is not true of one of our strongest communities here that has given so much to sharing with others, to being able to reach out and to open up their culture to the rest of the community."

The Mayor of Ottawa was reacting to such remarks by reporter Charlie Greenwell that "Chinese are by nature compulsive gamblers," and "They are also part of a very predatory society," which is posing a problem for the Ottawa police in its attempt to crack an alleged Chinese gambling ring in the nation's capital.

"I have worked very hard to attempt to make sure that our police represent this community and that we have a variety of people including women and visible minorities and everybody else on our police force."

The minute that the perception is there that the only reason that we want these people on our police force is to intimidate it becomes counter-productive," said Manon Dewar while responding to the comment by a senior Ottawa police officer in the same program that Chinese recruits are being used to infiltrate the alleged gambling ring.

"On the subsequent apology by CJOH on September 16, 1985, the Mayor said, "I listened to the apology and I just feel that the apology was mixed with there was a continuing problem of gambling. Well, I can tell you right now that I know of many floating gambling games that are going on where there are no Chinese participants."

The Mayor of Ottawa personally apologized to the Ottawa Chinese community. She was sorry that the Chinese community "was had to speak out," because she felt that the rest of the community should have been speaking up first.

To prevent similar incidents from happening in the future, Ms. Dewar thought that the Chinese community should "stand tall." We should be proud of who we are, and be very good that we are bringing richness to the Ottawa community at large.

News Alerts

CCNC Condemns CJOH Report

Ottawa, March 24, 1985 — The Ottawa Chapter of the Chinese Canadian National Council (CCNC) has condemned a recent CJOH report on the local Chinese Canadian Community as being "shallow, distorted and misleading." The report in question was broadcast Friday, March 18, 1985 during the early evening "News Line" program.

As a result of the over-emphasis on non-representative details and the unbalanced treatment of the subject matter, the CCNC believes that the report has reinforced existing prejudice and created an overall negative impression of the local Chinese Canadian Community. The report was part of a series on the area's "ethnic communities" dedicated to helping others "understand their rich heritage - to make us all better neighbours." However, the CCNC believes that this segment has failed to meet those objectives and instead, has created misunderstanding.

The CCNC expects to meet with representatives of CJOH in the near future to discuss this issue in order to arrive at a satisfactory solution.

Formed in 1980, the CCNC is a national organization composed of 22 local and associate chapters, one of which is located in Ottawa. The CCNC's objectives include:

1. The promotion of understanding and cooperation between Chinese Canadians and all other ethnic, cultural and racial groups in Canada; and
2. The creation of an environment in which the rights of all individuals are fully recognized and protected.

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Multiple news reports programs aired on television and radio have been critical of an officer, appointing an Advisory Committee on individualization and Accountability and involving cultural issues in the recruitment process. Departing from the traditional approach of firing those who test in the existing complaint of "middle and joint" forces, the Ottawa Police has been attempting to recruit officers who represent a diverse community and who possess the necessary skills and language they provide. In the spirit of cooperation between the police and ethnic communities in Ottawa, the Ottawa Police has set up a model for other cities in Ontario.

The second comment concerns the

加拿大華報 The Capital Chinese News

Commission Releases its Interim Report on Racism

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These releases either result in sensationalized coverage by the media. This in turn creates a perception that crime within the Asian community is disproportionately high and posing that they are dangerous towards Asians in general. While police services must protect against the existing crime involving ethnic ethnic communities, it is equally important that the investigative units should be identified as quality groups of officers they investigate (i.e. "Diversity Unit," "Youth/Street Gang Unit," "Basic Crime Unit" or "Field-Organized-Crime Unit" rather

Summit on School V

Ontario Education and Human Resources Development the second week of leading with that will be held on March 5, 1985. Approximately 450 people will attend in Ottawa. The summit will bring together education system officials from Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia to discuss the role of the police and the justice system in addressing crime and delinquency in schools. The summit will also discuss the role of the police and the justice system in addressing crime and delinquency in schools. The summit will also discuss the role of the police and the justice system in addressing crime and delinquency in schools.

Community Advocacy and Activism

Formed in 1980 after successful nationwide protests against a racist TV show that falsely depicted Chinese Canadian students in our universities as foreigners, the Chinese Canadian National Council (CCNC) was a national organization comprised of 22 local and associate chapters, including Ottawa. The CCNC's objectives included the promotion of understanding and cooperation between Chinese Canadians and all other ethnic and racial groups in Canada.

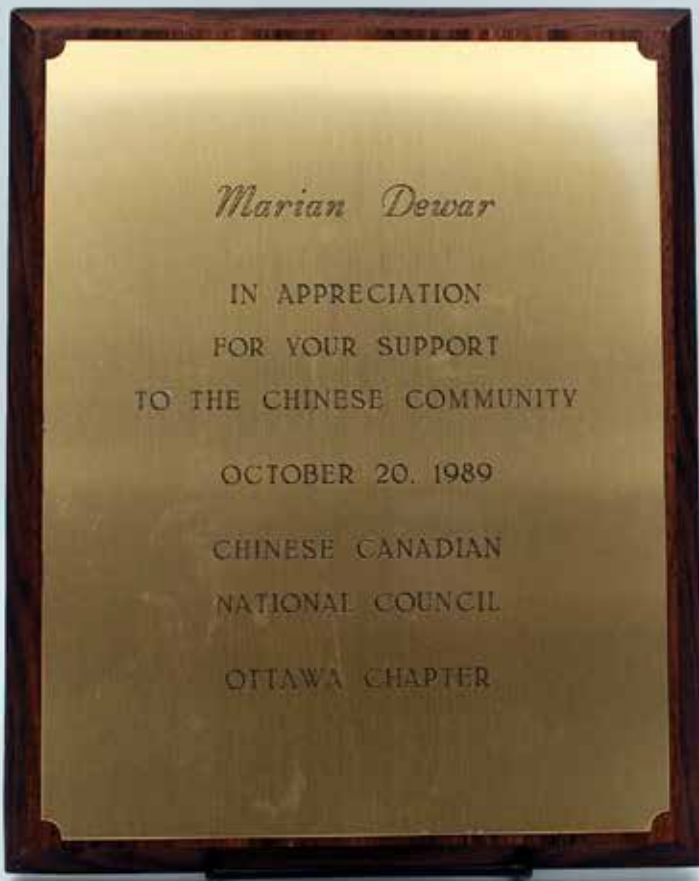
Robert Yip became a CCNC-Ottawa director and had been responsible for media relations in Ottawa for many years. The CCNC reincorporated in 2019 as the Chinese Canadian National Council for Social Justice, which continues to monitor the media as a means of promoting human rights and understanding.

Images left:

Advocacy letters and media clippings
related to Chinese-Canadian community issues
City of Ottawa Archives | MG911-1 / MG-911-2

Plaque from the Chinese Canadian National Council Ottawa Chapter to Marion Dewar for her support to the Chinese community, October 20, 1989
City of Ottawa Archives | MG448-06-027

Marion Dewar received this plaque from the Chinese Canadian National Council Ottawa Chapter recognizing her support to Ottawa's Chinese community over the years. As Mayor, Marion Dewar was a supportive and vocal advocate for the richness of diversity Chinese Canadians brought to Ottawa. She spoke out against racism and established an Advisory Committee on Visible Minorities within the City.



Plaque commemorating the 5th Anniversary of the Chinese Canadian National Council and the Mid-Autumn Festival presented to the City by the Chinese Canadian National Council, September 15, 1985
City of Ottawa Archives | MC1985-061

The Ottawa Chapter of the Chinese Canadian National Council (CCNC) celebrated the Mid-Autumn Festival and the 5th anniversary of the founding of the CCNC, organizing a parade along Somerset Street West from Dundonald Park to the Dalhousie Community Centre on September 15, 1985. Festivities included lion dances, the Phoenix Dance Troupe, puppet shows, martial arts displays, mooncakes, and paper lanterns. The Mid-Autumn Festival, also known as the Moon Festival or the Mooncake Festival, is a traditional Chinese festival celebrating the harvest and the full moon.



Orientation radio program, CHEZ 106

Orientation was a 15-minute weekly radio program produced by, but not exclusively for, Chinese Canadians, which ran on CHEZ 106 from 1982 to 1988. Orientation provided a dedicated voice and perspective on mainstream radio covering a range of issues affecting Chinese Canadians in Ottawa, including the head tax, racial discrimination, media stereotyping and multiculturalism. It also featured interviews with local community leaders, news reporting and commentaries and works by Chinese Canadian poets, artists and musicians, as well as satirical skits.



Ed Lam, left, and Robert Yip work on their weekly radio program.
Photo: Wayne Cuddington

Orientation, CHEZ 106 log book
City of Ottawa Archives | MG911-3

Orientation, CHEZ 106 cassettes
City of Ottawa Archives | MG911-3-2



Culture and recreation

Chinese Young People's Society

Succeeding generations of Ottawa Chinese immigrants embraced both their Chinese and Canadian heritage, traditions and identities. In the 1940s and 1950s, the Chinese Mission and the Young People's Society taught Canadian born children about the Chinese language, history and culture and organized social activities such as dances, plays, fashion shows, fundraisers, teas and sports. Chinese cultural associations, festivals, artists and authors continue this exploration and intersection of Chinese Canadian culture and identities.

Lives of the Family website, Denise Chong



Betty Joe, Daisy Joe and Mrs. Irene [Joe] Wong, Chinese Young Peoples Society prepare for Lotus Blossom Tea, April 22, 1956

City of Ottawa Archives | CA038025

Chinese Theme Adds to Color Of YPS Tea

A little bit of China came to Ottawa on Saturday when the Chinese Young People's Society held its annual Lotus Blossom tea at the Mission hall. The event was opened officially by Senator Cairine Wilson.

Chinese girls in native costumes and a display of arts, crafts and curios helped to recreate the Chinese scene.

Senator Wilson commended the work of the Mission and the YPS and expressed the desire that it would continue its good work.

Also attending the event were Madame Liu Chieh, wife of the Ambassador of China and Rev. Dr. and Mrs. J. W. Woodside.

Mrs. Irene Wong and Miss Daisy Joe were co-conveners of the tea and food sale and Mrs. Audrey Sim was in charge of home baking.

Miss Betty Joe was in charge of the program which included a number of solos sung by Rodney Sim, Susan Hum, Albert Hum, Patricia Hum, Linda Toy, Kwo Moy and Betty Joe. They were accompanied by Miss Margaret Macleod.

Others assisting at the tea were: Mrs. Phoebe Sim, curios; Mr. Joe Long, transportation;

Tom Chow, decorations, Hin Lew, secretary; Dr. James Y. Wong, treasurer; and Mrs. J. R. MacGregor, publicity convener. Mrs. Phyllis Sim was in charge of the tea room.

Senator Wilson--was introduced by Miss Daisy Joe who also welcomed the guests.

St. Germain-Bell Vows Exchanged

Miss Greta Gail Bell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. I. Bell, became the bride of Mr. Marcel St. Germain, son of Mrs. Charles St. Germain and the late Mr. St. Germain, in a ceremony performed by Rev. Laurence Battle on Saturday afternoon at two o'clock in Holy Rosary Chapel.

The bride was attended by her sister, Miss Sandra Bell. Mr. Leonard Kincaid was the bridegroom's attendant.

For her marriage the bride wore a turquoise blue cashmere suit with white accessories. She carried a nosegay

the bride donning a matching topcoat over her wedding suit.

Mr. and Mrs. St. Germain will reside in Ottawa.

Chinese Theme Adds to Color of YPS Tea
The Ottawa Journal,
May 1, 1956 · page 12



- 1) Wedding photo of Nellie Laura Wong and Thomas H. Won,
October 23, 1954
City of Ottawa Archives | CA030901
- 2) Wedding photo of Bernice Wong and Norman David Sim,
July 30, 1955
City of Ottawa Archives | CA033742
- 3) Baptism of Norman and Thomas Gee, sons of Mrs. Raymond Gee,
by Rev. Dr. Yau Szeto, April 1, 1956
City of Ottawa Archives | CA037628
- 4) Chinese cooking demonstration by Louisa Tang for
Gloucester High School students, October 15, 1971
City of Ottawa Archives | CA050915



The Chinese Aces Hockey Team, 1941–1945

At Chinese school, held in the evenings at the Chinese Mission at 314 Lisgar Street, some teenage boys had an idea: they would form an all-Chinese hockey team and call it the “Chinese Aces.” The team drew players from Ottawa, Hull and Aylmer.

The Chinese Aces’ first practices were on ice that the boys cleared on the Rideau Canal. Known as a small, scrappy and determined team, the Aces held their own in exhibition games against teams from Ottawa and nearby districts. Crowds packed the arena. The Aces used their appearances to collect donations for war relief in China.

Text from Lives of the Family website



The Chinese Aces Hockey Team, 1941

Back row (left to right): Edwin Joe, Paul Sim, Leslie Wong, Alford Seto (deceased), and Donald Sim. Front row (left to right): William Joe, Robert Seto (deceased), Allan Way-Nee, George Fong Quinn, and Hector Seto. Missing: William Fong Quinn

SUB SINKS SHIP 160 MILES OFF NOVA SCOTIA

U. S. Forces Shatter Attack on Bataan

Fear 90 Lives Lost With War Closest to Canada

80 Survivors Reach Port After Hours of Terrible Suffering

AS LAST REPORT CAME, 80 survivors were rescued from the U.S.S. *Albatross*, which was sunk by a Japanese submarine 160 miles off the coast of Nova Scotia. The survivors were taken to a port in Nova Scotia after a long and arduous journey.

Allied Air Power in East Growing

MacArthur's Big Guns Knock Out 11 Enemy Batteries

General MacArthur's forces have achieved a significant victory in the Philippines, with his heavy artillery shattering enemy defenses.



Ottawa All-Chinese Team Stars in Hockey Play

These Canadian-born sons of Chinese parents from Ottawa, Hull and Aylmer form the first all-Chinese hockey team in the history of the Capital. They have been assembled in exhibition matches this week and later to play as a team in the Ottawa Winter Hockey Association next week. The members of the team are, from left to right: Fred Lee, Bill Lee, Leslie Wong (captain), Paul Sun and Billy Joe. Back row: Bob Sun, Gordon Wong, George Sun, Bill Lee, Fred Lee and Bill Lee. (See also page 17)

Ilsey Announces New Victory Loan For \$600,000,000

Hans in Campaign To Bolster Forces

Will Be Offered About Middle Of Next Month

President Roosevelt today announced a new Victory Loan for \$600,000,000. The loan is intended to support the war effort and will be offered to the public in the middle of next month.

Russian Drive Forces Hitler To Flee South

Quits Smolensk For Safer Haven Behind Lines

General Smolensk has been forced to retreat from his position in the Smolensk region of the Soviet Union, moving to a safer location behind the lines.

Ottawa Journal, January 13, 1942

All-Chinese Hockey Team Makes First Appearance Here

Ottawa, Hull and Aylmer Youngsters Hope to Enter Minor League Next Year

By JACK MAUNDER.

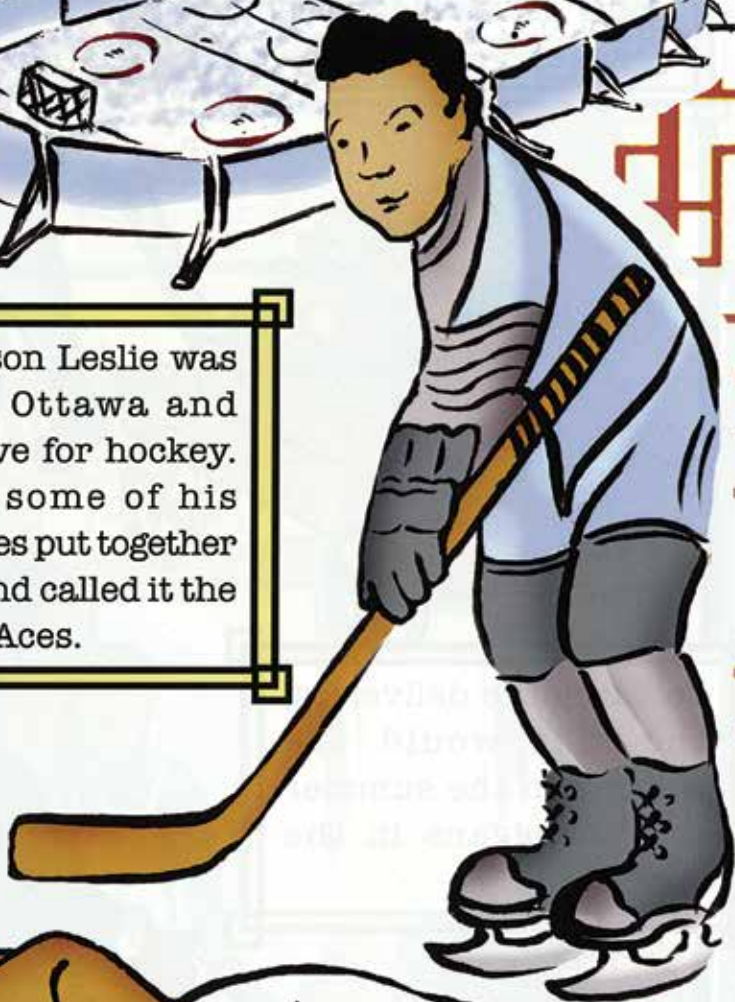
Canadian-born sons of Chinese parents, seven youngsters from

there are only eight men, but no special conditions are imposed and the opposing teams can have the regulation eight subs if they wish

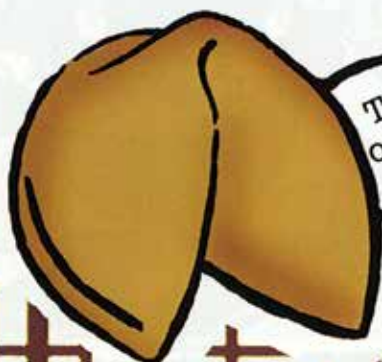
Headline from Ottawa Journal, January 13, 1942 pg 17




Shing's son Leslie was born in Ottawa and had a love for hockey. He and some of his classmates put together a team and called it the Chinese Aces.



The team practiced on the Rideau Canal





The Chinese Aces would travel to games in Sue's car. They would have to travel far and sometimes got stuck in the snow! In 1946 the team won a game against the highly ranked Aylmer Saints and everyone celebrated!

The Wong Brothers Make Their Mark, pages 16-17.

Illustrated by Don Kwan.

Capital History Comics [2018]

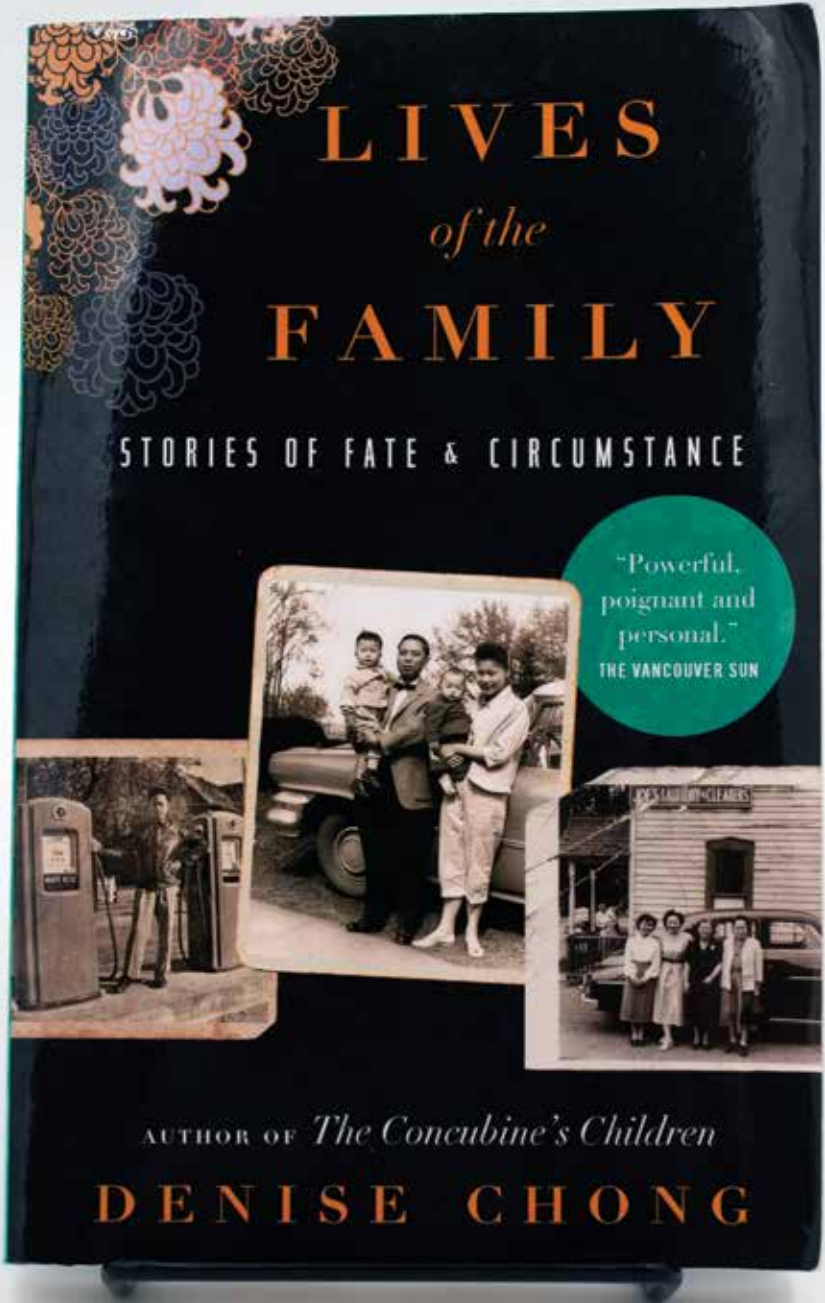
City of Ottawa Archives | MG911-4-1

The Chinese Aces
won the game 5-4



Wedding photo of Daisy Joë and Kenneth Lee, April 27, 1957
City of Ottawa Archives | CA044622

Lives of the Family: Stories of Fate and Circumstance
by Denise Chong, 2013
City of Ottawa Archives | MG911-4-3



Redress

Since 1984, the Chinese Canadian National Council (CCNC) has been seeking redress and an apology from the federal government for the Chinese Head Tax of 1885 and Chinese Exclusion Act of 1923. This campaign included petitions, legal challenges, community meetings and rallies. CCNC-Ottawa was part of this campaign. On June 22, 2006, Prime Minister Stephen Harper issued an apology and announced the payment of compensation to surviving head tax payers and living spouses of deceased taxpayers.



Photo: Prime Minister Stephen Harper issued a full apology for the Chinese Head Tax, June 22, 2006. Surviving Head Tax Payers holding the papers issued by the Federal government.

Photo: Members and supporters of the Chinese Canadian National Council rally on Parliament Hill, October 29, 2002. Photo by Robert Yip.



JUSTICE NOW!

NATIONAL RALLY IN SUPPORT OF REDRESS FOR CHINESE HEAD TAX AND EXCLUSION ACT

**Tuesday, October 29, 2002
12:00 noon
Parliament Hill, Ottawa**

Come join a group of head tax payers, their families, friends and community supporters from Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa to ask the Prime Minister of Canada and the Canadian Government to redress the Chinese Head Tax and Exclusion Act issues.

Chinese came to Canada to build the Canadian Pacific Railway. As soon as the CPR was completed in 1885, a head tax was imposed on all (and only) Chinese immigrants to Canada. The head tax was increased to \$500 in 1903 and it continued until 1923. On July 1 1923 - Canada Day - the Government of Canada enacted the Chinese Exclusion Act which barred all but a few Chinese from coming to this country. For the next 24 years, fewer than 50 Chinese were allowed to come.

Today, surviving head tax payers and their families are seeking justice for the sufferings that they were put through as a result of over 60 years of legislated racism.

Community members of the redress campaign, along with families and descendents of head tax payers, will be speaking about the impact of this historical injustice on the Chinese Canadian community and the individual families. Representatives from all political parties have been invited to speak at the rally.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

For more information, please contact:

In Toronto: Chinese Canadian National Council at (416) 977-9871

In Montreal:

In Ottawa:

Media Release: Rally on Parliament Hill, CCNC Ottawa Chapter,
October 29, 2002

CCNC Holds Ottawa Head Tax Forum

By: Robert Yip

On March 18, The Ottawa Chapter of the Chinese Canadian National Council (CCNC) hosted a public forum to explain the recent lawsuit against the Federal government over the Head Tax and Chinese Exclusion Act, and to seek potential plaintiffs for this suit. The panelists were Yew Lee, one of the three plaintiffs; Avvy Go, counsel for the plaintiffs; May Cheng, CCNC National President, and CCNC-Ottawa President, Jonas Ma. The audience included a cross-section of people who have either been affected by the legislation or are interested in the current redress movement. Also present were representatives from the *Ottawa Citizen*, CFMT television, radio stations, and the Chinese print media such as *The Capital Chinese News*, *The Chinese Community News* and *Ottawa Weekend*.

As explained by May Cheng, the CCNC has been seeking redress as part of its mandate since 1984, and many claimants have already registered with the CCNC. However, in 1998, after the federal government announced that there would be no redress for Chinese Canadians, and other groups like Italian and Ukrainian Canadians, the CCNC resorted to launching a lawsuit. After considerable research, the suit was filed on December 18, 2000. At the same

time, the CCNC wished to continue the political campaign, and this meeting was part of the effort to pressure the government to resolve this matter before it goes to court.

In her presentation in Chinese, Avvy Go provided the background to the redress movement and the lawsuit. She explained that the three plaintiffs are bringing this action not only on their own behalf but on behalf of other head tax payers, widows and descendants. One 94 year-old plaintiff paid the Head Tax in 1922, a second plaintiff is an 89 year-old widow whose husband paid the Head Tax in 1913, and the third plaintiff is her 50 year old son, Yew Lee.

The claim seeks the following: an apology from the government; the return of the Head Tax payments (with interest) to the individual payers, spouses or direct descendants or their families; damages for pain and suffering resulting from 1923-1947 Exclusion Act, and the establishment of a trust or foundation dedicated to the eradication of racism. As the Chinese were the only group required to pay such a tax and as the government collected \$23 million from about 82,000 payers, the return of that fund, according to May Cheng, is not only a symbolic gesture but it is really a matter of justice.

During the forum, it was explained that he CCNC is not a party to the legal action but is playing a strong supporting role by continuing to lobby the government for redress and coordinating meetings and reaching out to all potential plaintiffs who wish to join this class action. It will also act as an intermediary and facilitator in the event that the government wishes to negotiate a settlement.

Yew Lee spoke of how his grandfather died in Ottawa in 1916, but yet how he was not able to come to Canada until 1950. He spoke of the consequences of the Head Tax and Exclusion Act and the painful recollections of these experiences. He recalled how his mother was forced to raise two children on her own in China and then three more in Canada after his father's death. However, his mother was one of the lucky ones who was able to come, as many wives waited for their husbands who never returned or died of starvation in China while waiting. The Exclusion Act, said Mr. Lee, prevented our community from developing and was a denial of democratic participation in the economic life, social life and political life in Canada. Accordingly, our government should correct this black on our history.



From left to right: Jonas Ma, May Cheng, Yew Lee, and Avvy Go

Chinese Canadian National Council holds Ottawa Head tax forum,
Capital Chinese News, 2001
City of Ottawa Archives | MG911-1

Conclusion

For more information about the history of Chinese settlers in Ottawa, consider exploring the following resources:

- Reference Room copy of *Lives of the Family* by Denise Chong
- Ottawa Tourism, Chinatown
- Chinatown BIA

Lives of the Family: Stories of Fate and Circumstance

International bestselling author of *The Concubine's Children*, Denise Chong returns to the subject of her most beloved book, the lives and times of Canada's early Chinese families.

In 2011, Denise Chong set out to collect the history of the earliest Chinese settlers in and around Ottawa, who made their homes far from any major Chinatown. Many would open cafés, establishments that once dotted the landscape across the country and were a monument to small-town Canada. This generation of Chinese immigrants lived at the intersection of the Exclusion Act in Canada, which divided families between here and China, and two momentous upheavals in China: the Japanese invasion and wartime occupation; and the victory of the Communists, which ultimately led these settlers to sever ties with China.

This book of overlapping stories explores the trajectory of a universal immigrant experience, one of looking in the rear-view mirror while at the same time, travelling toward an uncertain future. Intimate, haunting and powerful, *Lives of the Family* reveals the immigrant's tenacity in adapting to a new world.

Acknowledgements

The City of Ottawa Archives would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their support and collaboration:

Denise Chong

Don Kwan

Professor David Lai

Robert Yip

Chinatown BIA

Ottawa Tourism

Jimmy Wen, T & T Supermarket

City of Ottawa Archives exhibit team:

Paul Henry

Katie Hull

Julie Parent

Laura Logan

Theresa Sorel

Alice Qiu



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ISBN: 978-1-998031-12-2 (print)

ISBN: 9978-1-998031-13-9 (digital)